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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/625,762	07/26/2000	Hideto Horikoshi	JA919990082US1	8025

7590 08/27/2002

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EXAMINER

HARRY, ANDREW T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2684

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/625,762

Applicant(s)

HORIKOSHI ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew T Harry

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/6/02
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-11 and 13-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-11 and 13-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 July 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Cancelled Claims

1. Claims 8, 12 and 20, have been cancelled by the Applicant therefore they are no longer considered pending in the Application by the Examiner.

Response to Amendment

2. Claims 17 – 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In amended Claim 17 the Applicant specifically states that a **docking station** is used to receive a signal representing a bit sequence. The Examiner was unable to find any information specifically regarding a docking station in the specification and therefore regards the subject matter as new and not disclosed in the original specification. Claims 18 and 19 depend from claims 17 and are therefore also rejected on the same merits.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7, 9-11, and 13-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7, 9-11, and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Connery et al. U.S. Patent 6,311,176 (Connery)**.

As pertaining to **claims 1 and 4**, Obright describes a method for receiving a signal by a computer adapted to operate in a power saving mode (see Connery abstract), said method comprising the steps of:

detecting within a computer a wireless signal representing a bit sequence when said computer is operating in a power saving mode, wherein said signal is targeted for said computer (see Connery col. 6 line 53 – col. 7 line 16);

exiting said power saving mode automatically in response to said signal (see Connery col. 5 lines 26-32);

regenerating some or all of said bit sequence of said signal (see Connery col. 5 line 37 – 47, Connery discloses that the bit sequence is stored in boot code memory); and

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storing said some or all of said bit sequence of said signal in memory after exiting the power-saving mode (see Connery col. 5 lines 26 – 36, Connery discloses that software updates can be imported onto the computer and for those to be effective they would obviously have to be stored on the device).

Connery does not specifically state that his network interface card (NIC) is used in a wireless networking environment. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to understand that wired LANs and wireless LANs both use very similar protocols and signaling techniques to communicate data. So Connery's disclosure could easily have been used in a wireless networking environment in the same manner that it could have been used in a wired networking environment.

As pertaining to **claim 2**, Connery's method as modified above regarding claim 1 further includes the steps of:

determining whether a wireless signal receiver device is installed and enabled by reading a plurality of status signals (see Connery col. 4 lines 28-42, Connery describes that a NIC is installed and typical handshaking procedures take place between the NIC and the device); and

exiting said power-saving mode only if said wireless signal receiver device is installed and enabled (see Connery col. 5 lines 26-32, obviously if the device is not installed and enabled the mode will not be effected).

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As pertaining to **claim 3**, Connery's method as modified above regarding claim 1 further includes detecting a particular identification tag embedded in said bit sequence (see Connery col. 6 line 53 – col. 7 line 16).

As pertaining to **claim 5**, the bit sequence in Connery's method as modified above regarding claim 1 includes a request for said computer to exit said power saving mode (see Connery col. 5 lines 47-51).

As pertaining to **claim 6**, the bit sequence in Connery's method as modified above regarding claim 1 includes a request to continue execution of a program that is suspended while said computer is in said power-saving mode (see Connery col. 5 lines 25 - 55, Connery describes that the message can contain information regarding various software functions and other functions that the message commands the device to perform).

As pertaining to **claim 7**, said computer in Connery's method as modified above regarding claim 1 comprises a receiving means for detecting said signal (see Connery col. 4 lines 28 – 42), and said computer further comprises a switch for maintaining power to said receiving means while operating in power-saving mode (see Connery col. 5 lines 10 – 25), and further comprising the step of:

setting said switch to maintain power to said receiving means prior to entering said power saving mode (see Connery col. 5 lines 10 – 25).

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As pertaining to **claim 9**, Connery's method as modified above regarding claim 1 further includes the steps of:

processing information conveyed by said bit sequence (see Connery col. 5 lines 36-55);
and

returning to said power-saving mode (see Connery col. 5 lines 32-47, Connery discloses that the computer essentially performs whatever task is initiated by the received signal).

As pertaining to **claim 10**, Connery discloses a computer for receiving a signal while in a power-saving mode (see Connery col. 4 lines 28 – 42), said computer comprising:

a receiving means adapted to detect a signal representing a sequence of bits, wherein said wireless signal is targeted for said computer (see Connery col. 6 line 53 – col. 7 line 16);

a power-saving mode control means adapted to exit said power-saving mode in response to a detection of said signal when said computer is in said power-saving mode (see Connery col. 5 lines 26-32); and

a switch for enabling power to said receiving means when said computer is in said power-saving mode (see Connery col. 5 lines 10 – 25, the power management circuitry in the computer essentially acts as a switch).

Connery does not specifically state that his network interface card (NIC) is used in a wireless networking environment. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to understand that wired LANs and wireless LANs both use very similar protocols and signaling techniques to communicate data. So Connery's disclosure

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could easily have been used in a wireless networking environment in the same manner that it could have been used in a wired networking environment.

As pertaining to **claim 11**, Connery as modified regarding claim 10 discloses a computer for receiving a signal while in a power-saving mode, said computer comprising:

one or more status indicators for indicating whether said receiving means is installed and enabled (see Connery col. 4 lines 28-42, Connery describes that a NIC is installed and typical handshaking procedures take place between the NIC and the device); and

wherein said power-saving mode control is adapted to exit said power-saving mode, only if said one or more status indicators show that said receiving means is installed and enabled (see Connery col. 5 lines 26-32, obviously if the device is not installed and enabled the mode will not be effected).

As pertaining to **claim 13**, Connery's computer device as modified above in claim 10, further includes:

a memory for storing bits;

wherein said receiving means is adapted to regenerate some or all of said bit sequence;

and

wherein said computer is adapted to store said regenerated some or all of said bit sequence in said memory when said computer has exited said power-saving mode (see Connery col. 5 lines 26 – 36, Connery discloses that software updates can be imported onto the computer and for those to be effective they would obviously have to be stored on the device).

As pertaining to **claim 14**, the receiving means in Connery's computer as modified above regarding claim 10 is an optional attachment to said computer (see Connery col. 4 lines 28 – 43, as is commonly known in the art NIC cards are easily interchangeable and removable in computer devices).

As pertaining to **claims 15 and 16**, Connery does not specifically disclose that said receiving means is formed in a device bay cover and said device bay cover is an optional attachment to said computer. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in that art at the time of the invention, based on device design, to implement a device bay cover to be used for the NIC on Connery's device. This would have allowed the user to easily and seamlessly plug in and remove the NIC from the user device. This would have been very useful if the user of the computer device used a docking station/device bay cover to host their laptop while working at a desk at work. The NIC, as well as the power connections and various other connections, would have been directly inserted into the docking station/device bay cover while the laptop could simply have been plugged into the bay cover.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

B. Obright U.S. Patent 5,752,202 teaches a method of message delivery adapted for a power conservation system.

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C. Rasmussen U.S. Patent 6,088,600 teaches a method for discontinuous transmission of circuit-switched analog cellular data.

D. Fujimoto U.S. Patent 6,104,937 discloses a power-saving method and circuit.



E. Son et al. U.S. Patent 6,278,887 teaches a system and method for power conservation in a wireless communication handset.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew T Harry whose telephone number is 703-305-4749. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Hunter can be reached on 703-308-6732. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

ATH
August 20, 2002


THANH CONG LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER


8/23/02

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